

**PDF**

**ATTACHMENT B**

To: County Executive Dow Constantine  
Council Member Joe McDermott  
Cathy Ortiz

My wife and I are writing to you requesting that you intervene on our behalf regarding the altering of the Vashon Town Plan. We request that more time be given to the issue and that more community meetings and gatherings be held. We welcome your attendance at these gatherings as we value your insight as our Representatives.

As we understand it, the Vashon Town plan was approved in 1996 and the point of the plan is to **“direct gradual growth and infill development so that it best meets the needs of the community and does not overtax infrastructure. The intent is to seek ways to reinforce Vashon’s traditional small town values, character and structure. It is also intended that the plan provide some predictability to Vashon landowners and to future development.”**

It is our understanding that King County proposes to arbitrarily change our Town Plan to include a “new use” (specifically for the recent purchase of the K2 facility by Bakkhus Holdings) without adequate opportunity to gather input from community members. This being a very serious issue, it seems to reason that more time should be afforded for meetings and gatherings within the community to discuss the matter and weigh the pros and cons of such an alteration to the Town Plan. We care deeply about our Island and its residents as we believe you do as our Representatives. The request for more time for meetings and discussion was never more apparent than last week after our attendance at the meeting at the Open Space facility. EdiPure products represented the new owners, Bakkhus Holdings.

To be quite frank, we were not impressed with the presentation by EdiPure as it related to the proposed plan for the site and facility. Questions from concerned residents regarding employment, Island contractor services, electrical power, waste products and disposal, water, outside lighting, security and security fencing, etc... were met with responses from the presenter with inadequate details and empty promises. We were told that the owners of the property who reside on Bambridge and Mercer Island prefer not to attend meetings that include public speaking. Seriously? It appears to us that this is a serious issue and a serious investment that they should be concerned about. We feel at this point, that we are being taken advantage of as Island residents. It’s obvious that

Vashon is attractive in that it provides a natural security barrier, but at what cost to the residents? Or for that matter, what advantage? We would like to ask the owners why they selected Vashon and not Bambridge or Mercer. The advantage clearly seems to be beneficial for only one party. To be fair, open minded and objective, we would like to be informed as to whether there is something we're not seeing.

**Please provide more time and community meetings for this serious issue before amending the Vashon Town Plan.**

Thank you as our Representatives, for your consideration and listening to our concerns.

Dennis and Linda English  
Vashon residents

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dennis and Linda English', written in a cursive style.

Ortiz, Cathy

need Nessel  
PDF Attachments

**From:** gwessel@publicgeology.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 10:45 PM  
**To:** kcexec@kingcounty.gov  
**Cc:** Ortiz, Cathy  
**Subject:** GREG WESSEL-DISAPPROVAL-----Vashon Town Plan amendments  
**Attachments:** Approved\_2012\_VTP\_Planning\_amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Historic\_Amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Bike\_Amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_AppendixD\_amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Job\_Nursery\_Amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Parks\_Amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Signage\_amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Town\_Design\_amendment.pdf; Approved\_2012\_Water\_amendment.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Dow;

You are no doubt aware of the controversy that has erupted on Vashon Island as a result of a recent proposal to the County Council to amend the Vashon town plan for a private company without first obtaining agreement from the community. A number of us are concerned about this development, and I want to register my disapproval.

But first, I have to present a disclaimer. I've been a county employee for nearly 16 years (first at DDES and now DPER) and for the last 10 years I have been providing permitting assistance for the residents of Vashon. I know a lot about the island and the history of the K2 site as a result of my employment, but in these remarks I am not representing my employer in any way. My opinions are my own, and offered only as a concerned Vashon resident.

During my time on the island, there have been two instances when the Vashon town plan was amended. The first was when a similar comprehensive plan amendment was done to change the zoning for the K2 parcel from I to CB. That action created a controversy similar to today's.

A more recent occurrence involved a committee from the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council (VMICC), which was tasked (in 2011) with updating portions of the town plan. After a lot of work, the committee sent to county staff nine approved amendments in February of 2012 (attached here, with a note to me from the committee chairman following my letter). Those amendments do not appear to have been incorporated into the town plan as currently available on the web site. The people who did the work are perturbed about the apparent oversight.

It is clear that the town plan needs updating for more than a few reasons. The nine attached updates notwithstanding, there are also problems with parking, sidewalks, sensitive/critical areas, and forestry practices (wetlands in the town core can be logged under a state permit). To top it off, we have learned that several other established island businesses face the same problem as the marijuana producers, in that their uses are not allowed in their zone. Because these uses were recently established, they cannot easily claim to be “existing non-conforming.”

We are not contending the nature of the proposed use, but we do have serious concerns about the viability of the business plan and timetable proposed by Bakkhos Holding. It is apparent that they do not understand the complexity of the situation. Most importantly, even without the town plan restrictions, their planned manufacturing operation simply is not allowed at the K2 site under the new code (Ordinances 17710 and 17725).

Bakkhos is proposing to grow, dry, trim and package marijuana, as well as extract concentrates, infuse food products, and package those products for sale. As I read the code, this list of activities classifies them as a “recreational marijuana processor II” (21A.06). If you refer to the permitted use table (21A.08.080) for manufacturing uses, recreational marijuana processor II activities are allowed in the CB zone only inside the Urban Growth Area.

Vashon is clearly not within the Urban Growth Area. We have some urban zoning, but we are outside the Urban Growth Area. As such, I believe that Bakkhos could only accomplish their stated goals if the K2 property was rezoned to I (when we already have lots of unused I business space) and the Vashon Town Plan was amended to allow that use in the industrial zone.

To rush ahead with changing our town plan in order to accommodate one out-of-state company’s unrealistic proposal is foolhardy at best and undemocratic at worst.

That said, I’d like to offer an idea for resolving this problem. Given that the town plan was recently amended through a Town Plan Committee fielded by the VMICC, and given that we already have volunteers poised to do this again, it makes perfect sense to simply reconstitute the Town Plan Committee and have them resolve the marijuana issues, as well as the other problems with existing nonconforming businesses, through the normal process that has been established for years. With a little help from your office, we could set an ambitious schedule to identify all of the necessary fixes, call for public comment, and craft language that would then be approved by islanders through the VMICC. I believe we could accomplish all of this within one year, which given the existing permitting and zoning challenges, might actually allow commercial use of the K2 property sooner than if we did not do it.

If King County is to be truly progressive, citizens must be empowered to craft their own future with assistance from elected officials like you. Our town plan has empowered us since 1996. We have not given anyone else social license to change it, and we are not giving that up now. So we ask that you press the “delete” button on the current process and send the question back to the people.

Give us the tools, and we'll finish the job.

We thank you for your past support, and we are appreciative of your engagement in this difficult issue.

Greg Wessel

-----Original Message-----

From: Melodie Woods <[melodiwoods@mac.com](mailto:melodiwoods@mac.com)>

To: Greg Wessel <[sleepingdogcafe@aol.com](mailto:sleepingdogcafe@aol.com)>

Sent: Sat, Feb 15, 2014 3:50 pm

Subject: Town Plan amendments to 2012 KCCP

Hi Greg,

It was good to chat with you about the proposed K2 sale. Personally, while I don't have any strong objections towards the proposed use of the property, I **would** like to see documentation relating to the current environmental conditions and/or any remediation steps that have been done on site. If you have any idea where said reports, etc. might be available, please let me know.

Also, per your request, I'm attaching the nine amendments to the Vashon Town Plan that we submitted to Paul Reitenbach and Julia Larson in February, 2012. As mentioned, I was told a while back that the 1996 version of the VTP is still on the KC website, and that these revised amendments are not included and/or referenced as updates to the KC 2012 Comp Plan. I have not verified this information, but if true, it's very disappointing - especially considering the vast amount of time and effort put into the process on behalf of the community!

I will be off-island on Wednesday afternoon, but hope to return in time to attend the KC public meeting at McMurray that evening.

Best,

Melodie

**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO THE 1996 VASHON TOWN PLAN WAS APPROVED BY  
THE VMICC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ON AUGUST 15, 2011**

**Chapter IV – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Job Nursery (NEW section to insert at end of Policy Recommendations)**

The Vashon Town Plan Committee has identified the need to explore establishment of a local “Job Nursery” to promote a healthy, sustainable and thriving rural business community within, and beneficial to, Vashon Island as a whole. We recognize that the complementary interdependent nature between an effective “Job Nursery” and a productive local business community is critical to the solid Island economy necessary to provide all Island residents with quality basic industry services. Efforts to enable the development of these components within the town plan are essential.

Exploration processes shall include active collaboration with local island commerce support groups such as Island GreenTech, local farmers' organizations and merchant groups and the Vashon-Maury Island Chamber of Commerce in determining the local business needs, resources and appropriate strategies to best promote healthy economic development for the island. The collaborated findings shall assist the Committee in planning for compatible efficient island infrastructures, facilities and/or on-island port services, all preferably provided by other local tax-paying small businesses or non-profit entities to meet the needs of basic local business industries and promote development of a healthy overall island economy including, but not limited to:

- A. Technical support for small and start-up businesses.
- B. Create capital resources for small businesses through grants, lending and investment.
- C. Development and implementation of programs to nurture job creation.
- D. Pursue adequate parking and pedestrian access in and between commercial hubs.
- E. Promotion of “Shop Local First” with advertising and events.
- F. Investigate rental spaces and limited support services for small business start-ups at low and/or reduced cost.
- G. Improve business operations and economic viability.

While this is proposed as a part of the Town Plan, its impacts will extend throughout Vashon and Maury Islands and include all Rural Business Clusters. Rural Business Clusters on Vashon include: The Town of Vashon, the port facilities, i.e. the Airport and the Ferry docks, the Rural Commercial Neighborhood Centers (such as Dockton, Center, Burton), home-based businesses, small-scale forestry operations and agriculture including value-added products.

There are numerous models and types of enterprises that can be stand-alone organizations and/or partnerships with existing island entities, such as The Chamber of Commerce, the Vashon College and Island GreenTech.

Until the initial findings of the collaborated exploratory process are compiled and the economic goals and projects that need to be addressed on Vashon over the next three to five years are identified, discussion and approval of the type of enterprise/partnership best suited to deliver the services should be delayed.

This proposal is supported by the King County Comprehensive Plan (2008 Update) via the following policies:

- ED-102 King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance of, and place special emphasis on retaining and expanding home-grown firms in basic industries that bring income into the county and increase the standard of living of our residents.
- ED-306 King County supports programs, strategies and partnerships to promote the development and growth of green jobs. Green jobs – particularly in the Clean Technology cluster, but also across all industry clusters – are jobs that are linked to the preservation and sustainability of the natural environment, as well as those that involve the design, manufacture, installation, operation, and/or maintenance of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- ED-201 King County supports programs and strategies to help create, retain and expand homegrown businesses in basic industries, particularly those industrial clusters offering the best opportunities for business growth and job creation as identified in the Regional Economic Strategy for urban areas and the Rural Economic Strategies for the Rural Area.
- ED-105 King County recognizes the environment as a key economic value that must be protected.
- ED-101 King County has a long-term commitment to sustainable economic development on a countywide basis. Sustainable economic development shall mean economic development that does not exceed the ability of the natural or built environments to remain healthy while sustaining growth over the long term.
- ED-108 Within the unincorporated area, King County should partner with local businesses, unincorporated area councils and others as appropriate, to develop and implement policies, programs and strategies that promote appropriate local economic development.



**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO THE 1996 VASHON TOWN PLAN WAS APPROVED BY  
THE VMICC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ON OCTOBER 19, 2011**

**Chapter IV, Page 21 - POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Water (NEW section to follow Residential Development)**

Water is the defining element of an island community - we can do very little successful planning if we do not include water in our most basic thinking. If we ignore water - its constraints, its benefits, our dependence upon it - we do so at our peril and all our planning will be for naught.

As a community, we must balance conflicting desires and natural constraints. The 1996 Town Plan as it currently exists is out of balance. Water District 19, which currently serves water to the Town Plan area, is in a moratorium for lack of water. The district has made many attempts to find new sources of water with minimal success and great expense.

The zoning within the 1996 town plan allows for more development than the Water District can currently provide water for. This presents a very complicated political problem that remains unresolved. The Town Plan Committee believes that the current situation has led to much confusion among landowners, Water District boards and employees, as well as Water District 19 customers, who have born the financial burden of this confusion and will continue to bear ever increasing financial burdens in the future.

The Vashon Community recognizes its dependence on Vashon's groundwater for its drinking water. The Vashon Community recognizes that all its fresh water plays a vital role in the ecology of the Vashon community. The Vashon Community recognizes that it is sitting in the middle of Puget Sound with all the constraints and benefits created by this setting. The Vashon Community is willing to accept these facts and wishes to live within the constraints this setting imposes upon us.

The Town Plan must reflect this reality whenever setting policy that affects water in any way. New customers should pay 100% of new infrastructure costs. Every effort will be made to conserve water in any new development within the town plan limits, employing any and all available conservation methods.

The Vashon Town Plan shall encourage water policies that contain conservation as the key component. Other strategies including rainwater catchment for agricultural, irrigation and non-potable uses shall be explored. All development policies must be viewed and judged on the basis that there is no further degradation of our water resources. Protection of both water quantity, from excess withdrawals and deforestation, and water quality, from the irreversible effects of fertilizers, pesticides, septic tanks, leaking sewer lines, improper disposal of wastes, flushed pharmaceuticals and a myriad of other contaminants, must be given the highest priority. Water conservation is most likely the only source of "new" water that is available to Vashon for the near and foreseeable future.

King County currently includes the following language in regards to new development:

**CP-1214 Special consideration should be given to the impacts of new development on the island's groundwater resources. This should apply to major developments in areas highly susceptible to contamination, or development near public water supplies. (V-61)**

**CP-1227 The quantity and quality of Vashon-Maury Island's groundwater supply should be monitored, along with building permit and subdivision data, to determine if planned densities can be achieved. If new information indicates the groundwater supply is endangered, the County shall take immediate steps to ensure new development does not impair the groundwater supply.**

**Note to Paul Reitenbach:**

**This new section does NOT replace the Water section in Appendix B, Existing Conditions Report**



## Ortiz, Cathy

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**From:** gwessel@publicgeology.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 10:45 PM  
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**Cc:** Ortiz, Cathy  
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Greg Wessel

-----Original Message-----

From: Melodie Woods <[melodiwoods@mac.com](mailto:melodiwoods@mac.com)>

To: Greg Wessel <[sleepingdogcafe@aol.com](mailto:sleepingdogcafe@aol.com)>

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Subject: Town Plan amendments to 2012 KCCP

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Best,

Melodie

**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO THE 1996 VASHON TOWN PLAN WAS APPROVED BY  
THE VMICC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ON AUGUST 15, 2011**

**Chapter IV, following RURAL TOWN DESIGN (NEW section)**

**SIGNAGE**

Signage for new and existing businesses shall maintain Vashon's unique rural character and reflect its small town personality. In addition to existing King County Code Sections 21A.20.010 - 21A.20.190, which establish standards that regulate signs, the following additional sign regulations shall be instituted in the Town of Vashon for all permanent identification and advertising signs:

- The Town of Vashon shall be a billboard free zone.
- Free-standing signs shall be limited to two sides and an area of 25 square feet per side.
- Wall-mounted signs shall be limited to a total area of 25 square feet.
- Free-standing externally lit signs are permitted to have one light per every 10 square feet.
- Free-standing or wall-mounted signs shall not contain internally illuminated electronic changing message or picture displays.
- Existing free-standing or wall-mounted advertising or identification signs which are internally lit by changing message or picture displays should be turned off when the business is closed.

**Sandwich/A-frame Signs**

One non-illuminated sandwich/A-frame sign per Vashon business shall be allowed in the Town with the following conditions:

- Sign cannot block or impede pedestrian, cycling, equestrian, and automotive or delivery traffic.
- Sign shall allow a 4' wide clearance for pedestrian and handicapped traffic.
- The overall dimensions of the sign are not to exceed 7.5 square feet and not to exceed 3' in width or 3' in height.
- Sign must be removed when the business it represents is closed.
- All signs must be removed by 11:00PM.
- Creative sandwich board/A-frame signs with a rural character are encouraged to reflect Vashon businesses' unique personalities and styles.

**Note to Paul Reitenbach:**

The current "Signage" paragraph on Page 17 should be moved to the CIRCULATION section (page 9), as it specifically relates to traffic signage.

February 19, 2014

Dear Mr McDermott and King County Board Members,

I am a resident of Vashon Island. My husband and I recently purchased a home on the Burton Peninsula and plan to raise our four children there. We moved to Vashon 3 years ago and planned on never leaving, until the recent news of an industrial marijuana business buying the K2 building became reality. I love Vashon for it's amazing small town safe environment. I truly feel that your support of the venture undermines the heart of what I love about Vashon. I do not want to have a large scale marijuana manufacturing company in the center of our town.

I worked as organic chemist in a drug discovery company and understand the extraction process used at Edipure. I do not like the idea of large scale butane extraction and the hazards that can associated with it.

I am a mother of four small children and while I understand that marijuana is now legal I don't want my kids exposed to large scale manufacturing of what I truly consider to be a harmful drug. In the extraction process THC becomes very potent and even more undesirable. This company then infuses candies and baked goods with highly potent THC. While the current marketing is for medical use that will broaden when recreational sales are legal.

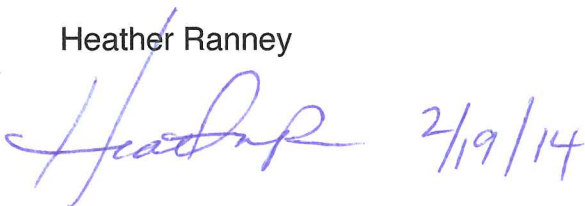
As a registered nurse who commutes off island I wonder what will happen to our already overburden ferry system. In order to have the amount of workers needed there will be an influx of off island people flooding our ferries and streets. There will be an increase in vehicles to bring commodities needed for the production of the plants and products, then the distribution off island for sales.

Additionally there many environmental aspects that have not been addressed ranging from water and power usage to the K2 site itself.

I feel that people have not had the opportunity to think through all that will be associated with allowing this company to purchase K2 and begin manufacturing marijuana. I am disappointed that those elected to think through large decisions and protect the families of Vashon are failing. I urge you to reconsider your support of Bakkhos/Edipure and realign yourself with the residents of Vashon. Please allow this community the time to consider all the possibilities Edipure and their enterprise bring to Vashon.

Thank you,

Heather Ranney



## Comments on Proposed Amendments to Vashon Town Plan

Like a number of others who have spoken up on this issue, I voted to legalize marijuana in Washington because I didn't believe its use should be criminalized. That is still my opinion, but it is really irrelevant to this discussion.

What is relevant, is that the King County Council has proposed changes to Vashon's Town Plan with a time frame that accommodates a corporate entity that wishes to do business in our core, without adequate public notice or input, and seemingly without due diligence.

- \* Concerns have been raised over toxic and hazardous wastes on the site (part of the reason it is still empty). Time is needed to be sure full environmental assessments have been done. Clean-up by the original owners must be mandatory, and not fall on the taxpayer's shoulders, or fail to occur at all.
- \* This would not be a small business, but a huge growing and manufacturing operation which a few knowledgeable Islanders hold could be extremely unfriendly to a small island in its energy use/CO2 output, and water usage. These concerns deserve answers.
- \* Job creation could be a great thing – or it could not. Logging provides good jobs, but it is not compatible everywhere; smoke belching factories may provide decent wage employment but also need to be evaluated in terms of worker's health, environmental degradation and climate change concerns. NEVER should those two words be an unquestioned siren call.
- \* The issue of security has been raised and it is undeniable that our law enforcement presence is limited; another concern to be addressed.
- \* Has anyone considered what happens when shipments of product further strain our scaled back road maintenance and inadequate ferry service? Have we forgotten that large operations like K2, Beall Greenhouses and Wax Orchard could not survive here; the first two departing and leaving their contaminated structures behind? Do we know if the potential purchasers have penciled out this aspect of their business? Do we get a chance to ask (apparently those with facts don't attend meetings)?

Bottom line: Numerous Vashon residents spent many hours, days, weeks, months and even years to develop the current Town Plan. The P-overlay was intentional. **Please, County Council, do not "overlay" your will on us, and change this document with 3 weeks public notification.** I hope you have read the February 19, 2014 Beachcomber Editorial which states well the case for slowing down and consulting the community.

Does the collective memory of the Council include the rumble strip debacle on Vashon? That represented complete lack of notification based on questionable data. Now it appears we face a similar situation, with inadequate notification, and inadequate facts at hand.

Ellen Kritzman  
206-567-4837  
10710 SW Cowan Rd., Vashon

**Testimony of Shango Los**  
**Vashon Island Marijuana Entrepreneurs Alliance**  
**[www.vimea.org](http://www.vimea.org), [shango@vimea.org](mailto:shango@vimea.org), 206-595-9006**

King County Officials, VIMEA members and neighbors,

I am Shango Los, founder of the Vashon Island Marijuana Entrepreneurs Alliance

I will be brief.

One good thing today is that everyone here wants for a healthy and thriving Vashon Island.

If we focus on the actual question of the Town Plan, there isn't much debate here. We understand that the zoning for K2 was changed years ago for the advantage of a potential buyer and it should have been changed back when that deal fell through. We also appreciate the public statements that King County Council never intended to exclude K2 from the comprehensive King County zoning decisions regarding marijuana. We agree that having K2 up and running again is towards our communities highest good and encourage the Council to go forward with the necessary amendments to the Town Plan.

Testimony from others tonight will include concerns about Vashon's water table and I share those concerns. Vashon must have a steward with a proven history of community involvement to take care of one of our island's most significant industrial parcels. Some in our community are concerned that someday we will find evidence of an environmental hazard from the K2 days. We hope that does not happen but the primary fact is that correcting the Town Plan to be in line with King County zoning and allowing Bakkos Holdings to grow marijuana there does nothing to let the Jarden Corporation off the hook for environmental clean up costs if they occur any time in the future. Please do not be distracted by this strategy. The request for more time to study the ground sounds reasonable in itself, but if the amendment to the Town Plan is not made now and we have to wait an entire year to have the opportunity again, Bakkos Holdings will choose Snohomish County instead of Vashon and we will not only lose the huge financial investment in our community but also the jobs, the tax revenue, and the opportunity to have the eyesore of K2 back producing again. I agree that the Vashon environment and groundwater is the priority to protect because I drink that water too but I don't agree that the evidence presented thus far should distract us from correcting the Town Plan and moving forward with this simple zoning correction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



## Ortiz, Cathy

---

**From:** Steve Urban <sharurban@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** kcexec@kingcounty.gov  
**Cc:** Ortiz, Cathy  
**Subject:** Vashon Island marijuana production

Dear Executive Constantine;

The purpose of this note is to state my opposition to the processing of marijuana infused products at the K-2 facility on Vashon Island.

The reasons for my opposition are as follows:

(1)The K-2 facility is a very large building in a rural area which will be very difficult to keep secure from people wanting to steal a high \$ value product. Even a few burglaries could result in a large volume of stolen marijuana which would fuel an already high problematic drug use situation existing on our Island.

(2)The close proximity of the processing facility to the Vashon schools sets a very poor community example for our children...that is..no drugs for our children but produce it in large volumes for our adults!!!

(3)Even though the parties requesting County authorization may now say there will be no retail sales of their product, I anticipate pressure will build where they will request authorization for a drive by retail sale operation. That will save them costs as they will avoid shipping off the Island expenses.

I hope you will consider this input as part of the subject deliberation.

P.S.-I voted for you in the last election because I felt you were a true believer in community input on issues such as this one.

# Leslie Brown

Planning, land-use and zoning can be some of the most important and contentious issues in a community.

This is where community and environmental values sometimes collide with the free-enterprise system. It's where many forces come to bear – from local interests to economic interests to private property rights. And it's where local government can be at its finest – or not. We've all heard stories of land-use nightmares – spot zoning occurring so that a powerful interest could get its way. And many of us have also seen local government perform ably and well, acting as an arbiter that ensures fairness, transparency and citizen engagement so as to find that right – sometimes delicate – balance.

The case before us is a classic example. On the one hand, we have a county ordinance that appears to allow K2 to become a pot production and processing site. On the other, we have a town plan that seems to block that use.

The county could treat this as a minor administrative matter, a cleanup of the town plan to bring it into compliance with this new ordinance. Or we could recognize the wisdom of that town plan and the opportunity it affords us – a chance to think hard about the implications of large-scale pot production in what amounts to a key and high-profile location in a small, thriving community.

I would argue that this is the kind of land-use issue that matters enormously. It's a defining moment for our community. And that's why I urge the county to allow this community to do what it does so well – engage, discuss, operate transparently and return to the county with our own proposed amendments to the town plan.

Some could argue that we had our chance to think about all of this when the ordinance was before the county council last fall. But you know, most of us have day jobs. Most of us have family obligations. And the rub on Vashon is this: We don't have a local planning commission or a town council or a mayor whose sole responsibility is keeping an eye on our local interests. We've got a county government that sometimes is very responsive and sometimes very distant.

I'm a champion of good government. I believe fiercely in what government – at its best – can do – which is to give citizens a voice, to keep an eye on the common good, to put forward thoughtful policies and to guard against the unintended consequences of poorly considered policies.

I ask King County to give us time to do just that. We need to consider the full implications of the issue before us and not hastily amend our town plan.